UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/617
1 November 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 75

EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Dieudonné NDIAYE (Gabon)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "Effects of atomic radiation" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 18 and 19 October (see A/C.4/49/SR.7 and 8). It had before it the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 1/ as well as the twelfth comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee entitled Sources and Effects of Ionizing Radiation. 2/

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/49/L.2

3. At the 7th meeting, on 18 October, the Chairman drew attention to draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/49/46).

2/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IX.11.

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4. At the same meeting, the representative of Peru introduced the related report on the item 1/ and draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2, which was finally sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Micronesia (Federated States of), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, the Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

5. At its 8th meeting, on 19 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.4/49/L.2 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

6. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 913 (X) of 3 December 1955, by which it established the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, and its subsequent resolutions on the subject, including resolution 48/38 of 10 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it requested the Scientific Committee to continue its work,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 3/

Reaffirming the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work,

Concerned about the potentially harmful effects on present and future generations resulting from the levels of radiation to which mankind and the environment are exposed,

Conscious of the continued need to examine and compile information about atomic and ionizing radiation and to analyse its effects on mankind and the environment,

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3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 46 (A/49/46).

1. Commends the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation for the valuable contribution it has been making in the course of the past thirty-nine years, since its inception, to wider knowledge and understanding of the levels, effects and risks of atomic radiation and for fulfilling its original mandate with scientific authority and independence of judgement;

2. Notes with satisfaction the completion in 1994 of the twelfth comprehensive report of the Scientific Committee entitled Sources and Effects of Ionizing Radiation, 4/ thereby providing to the scientific and world community its latest evaluations of the sources and effects of ionizing radiation;

3. Requests the Scientific Committee to continue its work, including its important activities to increase knowledge of the levels, effects and risks of ionizing radiation from all sources;

4. Endorses the intentions and plans of the Scientific Committee for its future activities of scientific review and assessment on behalf of the General Assembly;

5. Also requests the Scientific Committee to continue at its next session the review of the important problems in the field of radiation and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session;

6. Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to continue providing support for the effective conduct of the work of the Scientific Committee and for the dissemination of its findings to the General Assembly, the scientific community and the public;

7. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance rendered to the Scientific Committee by Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and non-governmental organizations, and invites them to increase their cooperation in this field;

8. Invites Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations concerned to provide further relevant data about doses, effects and risks from various sources of radiation, which would greatly help in the preparation of future reports of the Scientific Committee to the General Assembly.

4/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IX.11.